

Remarks/Arguments:

The Examiner's thoughtful review of this application is appreciated. Based on the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended their claims and request reconsideration and early allowance.

1. Double patenting.

Claims 1-9, all claims in this application stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 and 17-19 of co-pending Application No. 10/718,334 and/or claims 1-3 and 11-13 of co-pending application No.10/820594. At this time the co-pending claims have not been patented. Should these claims be patented prior to the patenting of the present pending claims Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.130(b).

2. Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1-6 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Benim et al. US 20030003249.

Claim 1, the sole independent claim has been cancelled. Claim 7 has been re-written in independent format and the remaining claims have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7. Claims 7-9 were only provisionally rejected under the judicially established doctrine of obviousness type double patenting and as mentioned above applicants will file a terminal disclaimer should it be necessary.

Conclusions.

Applicants believe that following this amendment the claims are now in condition for allowance only subject to the possible requirement that a terminal disclaimer be filed. However, as the co-pending cases forming the basis for this requirement are still pending, applicants believe that the amended claims are now in proper form for allowance and such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 16, 2005

Ruth Curran